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The President Defines One Issue and Goes Ashore.

Perhaps the most important communication that reached the United States from the strangely named ship that bore on his self-imposed mission the illustrious advocate of American entanglement came on Wednesday by wireless to the Associated Press. This despatch informed the American people that their receding Executive had "reserved virtually all of next week for informal conferences with Premier Lloyd George, Premier Clemenceau, Premier Orlando and others on the groundwork of the Peace Congress," and added:

"At these conferences he [President Wilson] will emphasize the idea that a League of Nations must necessarily be part of the peace treaties and is not a subject for separate action."

Crediting this announcement of intentions as authoritative, it will be perceived at once that this is the first definite intimation of the programme which the President has so successfully concealed from those whom it most concerns, that is to say, the Congress and the people of the United States.

For herein is framed a distinct issue with an irreconcilable divergence of opinion from that which has been so well expressed in the resolution introduced in the Senate ten days ago by Senator Knox of Pennsylvania and now awaiting adoption or rejection by that part of the Government which has the last say concerning our treaties.

After receding the declared purposes of the United States in entering the war (namely, the vindication of the ancient rights of navigation and the removal forever of the German menace to our peace), the Knox resolution provides:

"That the purposes of the United States in these conferences should be confined to the afore said aims and matters germane thereto;

"That for the safeguarding of those aims the first essential is a definite understanding that, the same necessity arising in the future, there shall be the same complete accord and cooperation with our chief colleagues for the defence of civilization;

"That any project for any general league of nations or for any sweeping change in the ancient laws of the seas as hitherto recognized as international law and violated by the Teuton Powers should be postponed for separate consideration, not alone by the victorious belligerents, but by all the nations, if and when at some future time general conferences on those subjects might be deemed useful."

The two proposals, we repeat, are fundamentally different and practically irreconcilable. The plan of procedure attributed to the President in the quoted despatch by wireless treats the conclusion of the peace treaties and the erection of the League of Nations as matters inseparable. The Knox resolution now in the Senate declares that the League of Nations project is a subject for separate action; that the immediate business of concluding peace and then withdrawing our army and navy from foreign territories and waters must be separated from the League question and take precedence over it.

In our view the Knox resolution sets forth a programme of procedure as sane, sensible, practical and truly American as the President's reported plan of combining the two subjects is vague, dangerous in its possibilities of entanglement and inconsistent with traditional American policy.

It is well, however, that the issue should be made so plainly and so early in the development of the President's carefully guarded intentions. It may be said that Senator Knox's proposal has not yet been adopted and therefore lacks the status of an official declaration by the United States Government. The same thing is true of President Wilson's proposal. His programme for the ordering of events at the conference, like the Fourteen Points which he carried ashore with him at Brest yesterday and conveyed to Paris in a manner so spectacularly comical, rests entirely upon his personal conception of what ought to be done at Paris, and possesses no more weight than the Knox resolution as

an authoritative expression by the United States Government. Indeed, if the greater weight of authority is on either side, it is with the Knox resolution. Senator Knox has not been repudiated by any vote of the people. On October 25, in advance of the latest Federal election, President Wilson frankly told the country and the world that "the return of a Republican majority to either house of Congress would be interpretative on the other side of the water as a repudiation of my leadership." The words are his own.

The celebrations of hearty and friendly welcome which, beginning at Brest, are going for some days or weeks to occupy so much of public attention on both sides of the ocean are in part a tribute to the intellectual qualities which Europe has recognized in the distinguished guest, and in part an expression of grateful sentiments toward the American people for their sacrifices and assistance in winning the war. It is his pleasant fortune to receive in his own person the plaudits that are intended for their sacrifices.

But how much more gratifying all this welcome would have been to a truly patriotic and democratic President under circumstances somewhat different from those which exist. How much more solid would be the ground under his feet were he now in Paris not merely as a controversialist eager to champion his own individual responsibility, conceptions and intentions personally contrived and concerning which the Congress, the coordinate and equal department of the Government, and the American people as a whole, have been sedulously kept by him in profound ignorance, except as he has vouchsafed us on occasion vague generalities and phrases of rhetoric. How much more profitable President Wilson's historic journey had been landed at Brest as a representative with a real mandate from a Government and a people informed as to what he was about, approving his plans and united in his support!

Financing the Peace Business of the Allies.

Mr. McAdoo urges Congress authority for the new Secretary of the Treasury to continue lending the Allies in peace as we lent them in war. Maybe he means as well that our Treasury shall finance the whole world. Already we have invested in foreign governments some eight and a quarter billions of dollars. Nobody shall gainsay that when we were fighting for our lives it was wisdom for us to advance them this vast bulk of cash or credit. Nobody can doubt that it was necessary. At the time we entered the war it was as essential for our safety and success to keep the Allies as to keep ourselves going full speed ahead against the Germans. Without money neither we nor they could have made the only kind of war that would smash the German machine. We were the only nation that had the money. It was our job to advance it to the Allies, and if the war had continued it would have remained our job.

Now it is a different question. If our Government continues to lend to the Allies it will not be for their and our war, for our lives and their lives, but for their business. This would seem, then, a banking matter for the banks of this country and of other countries to arrange. It would seem to be as much a banking matter as if American mills, American mines, American business and industry of any sort wanted to get money abroad to finance their needs.

In any event, there should be no toleration by Congress authority or by public will of taxation here for foreign investment. There should be close Congress scrutiny of this whole affair from beginning to end. It should be made clear whether during the war our Government was putting only the proceeds of Liberty bond sales into investments with the Allies, or whether, in effect, it was putting as well the proceeds of war taxes into such investments. It should be made clear what proportion of Liberty loans went into our own war expenditures and what into their war expenditures. It should be made clear whether our next issues of bonds are to be used to clean up our own war bills or are for the Allies.

Let us have all these facts and a national discussion of them before authority is given to anybody to finance out of our Treasury the peace business of the rest of the world. Somebody's trade propaganda keeps telling us that the foreign countries cannot buy from us unless we continue our Treasury credits to them. As a matter of fact they are more likely to sell to us overwhelmingly, if we let them, than to buy from us prodigiously. It is only a question of time until that side of it becomes a bigger and a graver problem for us than anything else.

No Commiseration for Red Tape.

The General Staff is now preparing recommendations for the guidance of Congress in the organization of the army after peace has come. At present the details of its suggestion are carefully guarded secrets. It is asserted, however, that the General Staff will advocate the abolition of the old bureau system and the adoption of a plan which will centralize authority and responsibility. Centralized authority and responsibility will leave no room in the military establishment for Red Tape, and if Red Tape is excluded from the army, the army and the country will be infinitely better off than they can be while Red Tape is permitted to cumber the administration of military affairs.

Red Tape was much in evidence when we went to war. Red Tape got

in the way of everybody who wanted to do anything. Red Tape tripped up all the men, soldiers and civilians, who had ideas and wanted to see those ideas transformed into acts. Red Tape was more than a nuisance; Red Tape was a menace. Consequently Red Tape was cut, and then the nation could devote itself to winning the war.

If the General Staff recommendations include the abolition of Red Tape they will have that much to commend them, and if they provide for the perpetuation of Red Tape they will not be worth the paper they are written on.

False Notions About the Returned Soldier.

There is wisdom as well as humor in the remark of Dr. Woods Hutchinson at the Red Cross mass meeting in Brooklyn:

"When I hear wealthy, well meaning citizens planning what they are going to do for the boys when they get back, I always tell them not to worry about that, but to lie awake nights preparing for what the boys are going to do to them."

Dr. Hutchinson might have included Government officials among these well meaning citizens. We do not deplore Secretary Lane's earnest effort to make farm lands ready for those soldiers who desire to go to farming; it is a plan worth making, no matter what the results are. We would discourage an idea, prevalent in some quarters, that two million young men are returning to America utterly without plans for their future and quite incapable of thinking out that important matter for themselves. From what we have seen of the American soldiers they are, far the most part, very well equipped under the hat. Furthermore, most of these soldiers have homes, relatives, friends and associations of years standing. Most of them had, before the war, a pretty fair idea of what their life work was to be; and except in those cases where military life or the view of a larger world has changed their notions, they will take up their careers where they left off, better equipped than ever, physically and mentally, to go ahead.

It is all very well to plan for homes and work for the unattached and those whose pioneer spirit would keep them on the restless go. The Government should, as a reward for their services, help them to the work that suits them best. How many men there are of this type it is impossible to say, but we imagine that it is a small fraction of the whole army—no such number as to justify the chattering of those amiable persons, official and otherwise, who seem to assume that we have in the returned soldier a national burden and care. This attitude must be both amazing and amusing to the two fisted man who came home from France. Of course he is not going to "do anything" to anybody—that is Dr. Hutchinson's little joke—although he might be justified in resenting any assumption that he is as homeless and helpless as a newly arrived immigrant.

Off With the Green Stamp, On With the Blue.

The Treasury programme for the War Savings Stamps is of interest to everybody who has a partly filled card. The current cards, which are redeemable in 1923, will not carry over into the next year. It is announced. For instance, a stamp buyer who has bought one savings stamp a month this year and who now has twelve of the twenty spaces filled with the green stickers, will not be able to complete the card unless he buys the eight lacking stamps this month—and not everybody has \$84 to spare at the holiday season. However, the card as it stands will be honored by the Government in 1923 and the holder will receive \$80.

Stamp collectors will start afresh with the new year, when the new cards will appear and the 1919 issue of savings and thrift stamps—both blue—will be on sale. In January the savings stamps will cost \$4.12, and as heretofore one cent will be added to the price each month. These stamps will mature on January 1, 1924, when each stamp will be redeemed at \$5.

The stamp savers will do well to clean up the slate as far as possible this month, at least to the extent of completing their thrift stamp cards and getting savings stamps for them. These assiduous stamp buyers have been of great assistance to the Government in war, their total purchases this year amounting to perhaps more than a billion dollars.

Man's Triumph Over Space.

President Van's announcement of the success attained by multiplex telephone and telegraph systems perfected by the technical staffs of the Bell companies and the Western Electric Company holds high places in a series of important disclosures recently made concerning progress in the art of communicating by electrical devices. The inventions applied to the wire circuits by the engineers under Mr. Van's direction have greatly enhanced the efficiency of existing telephone and telegraph installations, thus making for economy of construction and saving thousands of dollars worth of material and labor that without these improvements would otherwise be needed to provide the plant necessary to handle the country's business.

The new multiplex system is now in satisfactory operation between Pittsburgh and Baltimore. The Maryland City is a particularly appropriate site for the demonstration of this new marvel, for to it was flashed from Washington the message "What

hath God wrought!" over the first working telegraph line set up by S. F. B. Morse. That was on May 24, 1844. Mr. Van's recall, in his letter describing the new achievement, the fact that it was while working on the problem of multiplex telegraphy that ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL "had his first conception of the structure of the original telephone."

Immediately after the signing of the armistice on November 11 it was made known to the public that a remarkable system of wireless telephony had been brought into use in the air service by means of which men flying high above the ground could maintain uninterrupted conversations with their headquarters and with each other. This system was exhibited in President Wilson's presence, and he personally directed the evolutions of a squadron of military airplanes which, thousands of feet above him, performed manoeuvres in accordance with his orders, spoken into a microphone as he stood on the ground. The authority of the Commander in Chief had never before been so exercised; perhaps, in fact, the first commands given in person by a President to any except high officers of the army were those uttered by the President to the flying men by wireless telephone.

This wireless telephone system had been in use in the Expeditionary Forces in France, and had proved a puzzle to the enemy from the time of its introduction.

Recently it was asserted that the engineers of the wireless telegraph companies had discovered a method of overcoming adverse atmospheric conditions and protecting their circuits from interference. The effectiveness of this invention has yet to be publicly proved.

While these triumphs have been won in the air, there has been in progress a development of under water communication the details of which have not yet been made public, but which has reached a point far in advance of anything that had been achieved before the beginning of the war. The submarine attacks made previously installed in ships should be greatly improved, and this improvement was effected in a manner which reflects the highest credit on American laboratory experimenters and those who adapt their discoveries for practical use. The felling of the submarines was not accomplished exclusively by "ash cans" and gun fire. Other instruments of the greatest delicacy, fruit of ingenuity and untiring industry, contributed to the defeat of their campaign. These instruments will be of the utmost usefulness to commerce in peace.

Mr. Van's letter records a fact that is commonly overlooked. He says that "hundreds of our men have cooperated" to produce the machines which open a new chapter in the arts of telephony and telegraphy. This is the case in the perfection of all great improvements; many men laboring in concert or independently contribute to the final achievement. And when they have won a great triumph in the science to which they devote their lives, they or others utilize what has been done as the foundation for further progress in the betterment of mankind's lot.

Weary Days in Camp.

There is impatience in the cantonments. The drafted men want to go home and take up their old tasks. "Can you help us out?" they ask in letters sent to THE SUN from many camps. "Good jobs are awaiting us. Uncle Sam doesn't need us."

This feeling on the part of the men is natural. It was predicted that the waiting of demobilization would be harder to bear than the grind and toil and sacrifice of training for war and war itself. But they must be patient. Making an army takes time, unmaking it also takes time.

And their energy is not being wasted while they wait. Rather it is accumulating, and the accumulation will eventually impart new vigor to the occupations of peace. Their impatience is of good augury for the prosperity of the country.

It is not too early to begin to-day the preparation of a suitable public reception for the American warships that have been ordered from Europe to this port and are expected to arrive here on December 23. Since the war began the navy has done its work behind a curtain of secrecy the like of which the country had never seen. The nature of its work necessitated as close an approach to silence concerning it as could be enforced. The admirable conspiracy to keep secret from the enemy the details of the public of most of the news about the fleet. But the public knew the fleet was doing its duty, and when the ships sail up the bay the public will welcome them as ships of triumphant heroes should be welcomed.

SCHUEDEMAN knows how to scare the Germans: "If you don't behave I'll call the Allies!"

On the Oregonian was one soldier, Sergeant Leland KAUFMAN, in company with forty-three civilians. The soldier, who had been in the line for some time, might in response to the wonderful reception which was all his all the way up the East River. The women police reserve pulled him with cigarettes and the girl club came down to him up to the pier, concluding with "Home, Sweet Home," when the gangplank was let down to let him off.—From an evening newspaper.

Sergeant KAUFMAN did not get a bit better treatment than New York wants to give to every soldier.

A dozen persons out of six millions turned out yesterday to signify that they were in favor of bolshevism. It's too late; the disease isn't fashionable in America.

Senator JOHNSON asked for light on Russia. Will some one find the fourth dimension?

DR. MAGNES DENIES IT.

He Never Went to Mexico & Sent Messages to That Country.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It is only to-day that I was shown the following statement in your issue of December 9:

In March, 1918, Deputy Attorney-General Becker says, Dr. Magnes made a trip to Mexico. The object of this journey is not made clear, but in one of the wireless messages to Berlin Von Bernstorff says that "Magnes reports situation in Mexico better."

I have not the slightest idea what all this may mean. I did not make a trip to Mexico in 1918. I have never been in Mexico in my life. As far as I am aware, I have never had communication with Mexico, directly or indirectly, on any subject whatsoever, either in person or by letter or by telegram or by messenger or in any other way. I have never communicated with anybody about any Mexican situation whatsoever.

Under these circumstances does it not seem strange that a citizen should be accused publicly by the Department of Justice of the State of New York of trips and communications and other activities which have absolutely no basis?

Instead of protecting citizens it would seem that some of our officials are instigating a kind of governmental reign of terror.

L. L. MAGNES.

New York, December 12.

THE POLICEMAN'S WORK.

Three Incidents of a Night's Duty Near the Navy Yard.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In a letter from John R. White printed in THE SUN the impression is given that sailors who are behaving themselves are being harassed by police men by means of the espionage of policemen.

Since I know that nothing of the sort occurs permit me to tell of what I saw when I was opposite one of the entrances of the Brooklyn navy yard. As I passed there of one winter morning, I saw three of our sailors standing at the entrance.

Three young girls, arm in arm, passed them. One of our sailors whistled after the girls, who immediately slackened their pace and began to giggle. As one looked back there appeared in front of her a policeman, a gentle, efficient looking woman who said: "What are you girls doing out so late?" The women then gave them advice and counsel, for which they appeared grateful, and she sent them on their way.

Shortly thereafter on the opposite corner front of a saloon several young girls were seen in a similar attitude came up to them, whereupon several rough looking young fellows came out of the saloon and approached them.

Again the efficient woman joined the girls, who explained that they were returning from night school and that the fellows had been bothering them in a similar manner. Showing this man a shield of the New York Police Department the woman threatened him with arrest and he promptly disappeared, as did the other fellows. I heard these girls express their sincere gratitude to the policeman for his help.

I saw her stop and talk with a little girl who was alone as she got lost near where a sailor stood, and I heard the girl thank the woman for her advice and promise to go right home.

I cannot attempt in this letter to tell half of the good work I saw the policeman do that night, but since you have permitted Mr. White's unjust criticism of the work of policemen may I be given space enough to suggest that if any doubt exists as to the propriety or need of it inquiry be made of the New York Police Department and a large information furnished about the many cases of rescue to the credit of this intelligent and great hearted policeman whom I saw pounding these dark pavements alone in the cold late at night?

GENEVIEVE ALLEN.

New York, December 12.

MR. SMITH'S OPPORTUNITY.

His Administration May Rank With That of Governor Tilden.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: If one good guess deserves another, may I venture a prediction in regard to the administration of Governor Smith in THE SUN as a sequence to the one predicting his election "with or without the rest of his ticket" last August?

In my opinion, his record is equal in importance to that of Samuel J. Tilden, which it already rivals in popularity. Tilden's great work was the exposure and demolition of the canal ring in this State after his preliminary work against the local ring in his own party in this city.

Unless all the signs fall Governor Smith is going to be as energetic in his work for the redemption of the taxpayers from the clutches of both parties as was Governor Tilden himself.

Governor Tilden was essentially a man of the people, though born and bred in the aristocracy of the Hudson River. He was as far as this relates to wealth, education and station in life.

Governor Smith's university was his native city of New York, of which in his day THE SUN was the college paper. The college education, which in those days was a rare thing, and distinction, has now become a mere frippery of modern American civilization and a trademark for political advancement for the social worker in the settlement house school of present day politics.

Although Governor Smith has worked with organized labor in his upward career in politics there is every reason for believing that he knows and respects the rights of every form of honest labor, whether of head or of hand, and whether organized or unorganized. The college man in politics has the intellectual desire to win which the plain man lacks to justify in plausible sophistry every apostasy to the principles he may have been elected to protect, or of which he was at one time the advocate. The time has come for the pendulum to swing in the other direction, and Governor Smith is the man of the hour. Place for the "real" man of the people!

JOHN P. DAVIS, M. D.

New York, December 13.

Positive Opinion on Railway Control.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: If Mr. McAdoo continues in control of the railway service of the United States for another five years we shall be a nation of dyspeptics.

W. F. TAYLOR.

New York, December 13.

Home Grown Products.

From the Glasgow Messenger.

At Glasgow it is reported that residents of Glasgow living elsewhere look back toward Glasgow for good things to eat. In the last week a Kansas City man sent an order for a pig and a ham in Glasgow, Idaho, and a woman in Dubuque, Ia., wrote home for Missouri grown oats.

JOHN D. WELLS.

AN APPEAL FROM CAMP.

Drafted Men Anxious to Be Earning a Living Again.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: We chaps are in distress here. We will you help us out? Some of us from New York have been in this God forsaken dump for twenty-seven weeks, for nineteen of which we were in close quarantine, although many of us were not ill a day, for which, of course, we're truly thankful; but now that war is over "we want to go home."

Notwithstanding the grind and toll and sacrifice, we'll get none of the glory of those who went "over there," and even those of us held here as officers and instructors are anxious to return to our homes and take up the task of making livings. Uncle Sam doesn't need us and is wasting money by keeping us on the payroll. Good jobs are awaiting us at home. No one here is actually seems able or willing to say when we are to be discharged.

Please lend a helping hand to get us out of here.

HELPERIES AND UNHELPERS.

CAMP HANCOCK, AUGUSTA, GA., December 10.

FREIGHT CHECKERS' HOURS.

An Appeal for Eight Hours and No Sunday Work.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Allow me a little space to make a few observations regarding the condition of those who work men the railroad freight checkers.

I work at one of the New York Central freight stations. Our hours of work are from 6 A. M. to 6 P. M., oftentimes 7 P. M., and we get only a half hour for dinner. These to my mind are most unreasonable hours, more especially in the winter months, when the checker has to stand twelve and thirteen hours in the zero weather exposed to the terrific cold wind. Frequently he is numb with cold. I should think the time opportune to put in force the eight hour law for these men. The hours should be from 7 A. M. to 5 P. M. with an hour for dinner. The pay should be at the same rate as is now in force, and any work done over the above hours and after 5 P. M. should be time and a half and Sunday work should be entirely abolished.

We only ask justice and fair play in this matter, and I am certain that any corporation would not begrudge those concessions to men who for years have borne with their lot without murmuring.

A CHECKER.

New York, December 13.

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.

The Second Engineers Fought Alongside the Marines at Belleau Wood.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have been attracted to the United States Marines for many years, and I have read with interest the articles in your issue of December 10, 1918, regarding the capture of Belleau Wood. The information contained in these articles is substantially correct, but I desire to give credit to an organization which has been conscientiously overlooked in the capture of Belleau Wood. That organization was the Second Regiment of the United States Marines, and to them as much as to the marines goes the credit for stopping the Hun hordes last June.

I was a Lieutenant in Company C of the Second Regiment and I know of the work that the engineers performed in the capture of Belleau Wood, and while it is not my desire to take any credit away from the marines, who are the most wonderful fighters in the world, still I desire to call attention to a forgotten organization which fought side by side with them and with the other infantry units of the Second Division.

I have since been honorably discharged as an officer of the Army of the United States, so in writing this to you I am writing in the capacity of a citizen of the United States who desires to see his former organization receive the credit that belongs to it.

Indeed, if the records of the Second Division are analyzed it will be found that the Second Regiment of Engineers have done as much work as Infantry as they have as engineers.

EX-LIEUTENANT COMPANY C, SECOND REGIMENT, U. S. MARINES.

NEWARK, N. J., December 13.

BADGES FOR SERVICE.

Let the Disappointed Wear a Badge of Honor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It was, as THE SUN points out, a great disappointment to many men in uniform that they had to remain in camp, and they deserve a distinguishing mark to show that they were in the line.

I am a mother with two sons in the service, one overseas with the 107th who took part in the fighting on September 29, the other in a training camp. Do you think he feels as if he was as much in the service as his brother?

True, he was just as willing to go.

HAVERSTRAW, December 13.

Regrettable Confusion in the National Zoo.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Please your natural history. Badgers, my dear sir, badgers dwell in Wisconsin, Minnesota, is the proper State.

NEW YORK, December 13. PATRIOT.

TRADE BRIEFS.

The number of milk cows in Ontario, Canada, from 1914 to 1917 increased by nearly 100,000. In cattle of all kinds there was an increase of 288,000. The increase in sheep was only 50,000. There was a decrease of 114,000 in the number of hogs and nearly 2,000,000 in poultry.

The new store of the Wing On Company, which was recently opened on the principal business thoroughfare of Shanghai, China, is the largest, modern Chinese department store to be opened there.

Plans for the establishment of a large floating dock for Kingston, Jamaica, which were under way before the war, are now being revived by the original projectors.

Wesley Tandy.

From the Buffalo Evening News. Wesley Tandy's wife, finding fault "cause things are as his tell," is, in fact, a most pitifully. The woman didn't bicker out adze as they should. Because the Lord doesn't govern "em as they please."

New Wesley says, he says, says he, if he could have his way, he'd make the Lord endure for him. He'd feed the poor on savory meat 'n' hide the rich with crumbs. And 'woud out all the Bibles 'n' the Presbyterians.

O Lord, do you do things for the best an' don't get the idea in Your head I'm losin' faith 'n' things. But faith 'n' things must be a chore. Then why not take a rest. And say, say, say, I don't want to know it all—like Wesley's hand who home for Missouri grown oats.